

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ 25X1
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 COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT NO. 25X1
 TOPIC General Military Information 25X1A
 EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
 DATE OF CONTENT 7 to 25 October 1951
 DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 9 November 1951
 REFERENCES 25X1
 PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1
 REMARKS 25X1
sources.

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. During the period from 7 to 10 October 1951, the substructure of Hamburger Tor Bruecke and Hagen Bruecke near the Brinker Hotel in Perleberg (M 54/T 70) were reinforced. The bridges are on highway No 5. On 7 October, the reinforcement of the substructure of Wittenberger Bruecke, Perleberg, was started. An employee of the regional construction office and an architect were overheard saying that bridges in the area of Lentzen-Lentzener Wische, 8 km west of Lentzen, were improved or reinforced. This program included stone bridges and even bridges over small ditches. 25X1 learned that Colonel Barabash (fnu) succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Smyrnov (fnu) as commander of Tank Unit 25X1 in the Artillerie Kaserne on Breitscheidstrasse, Perleberg. 25X1 Lieutenant Colonels Pivovarov (fnu) and Pichonkin (fnu) and Majors Zarokin (fnu) Zachko (fnu) and Vasiyeliyev (fnu) were identified at Perleberg airfield. They seemed to be at least battalion commanders because each of these officers was in charge of several barracks buildings. (1)
2. On 10 October, five tanks were engaged in target practice at Storbeck. Twelve other tanks and truck 25X1C stood in a nearby hollow. (2)
3. Vehicles seen leaving Stendal (M 53/Y 85) toward Tangermuende on 19 October included: 16 T-34/85 tanks; 12 SU-100 SP guns; 12 x 100-mm AT guns; and 60 to 80 trucks carrying troops with red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets and towing 8 x 57-mm AT guns and 16 x 76.2-mm field guns. 25X1C (3) At about 6 a.m. on 22 October, an artillery unit, of about 300 troops which was detrained in Tangermuende, was equipped with 12 x 122-mm howitzers, 2 field kitchens, 2 jeeps and 16 to 19 trucks. Weapons which stood on the Neuholdensleben-Letzlinger Forst road on 22 October included

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6 x 100-mm AT guns, 2 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 heavy AA guns and 12 SP guns. On 19 and 20 October, the troops staying in the Born-Planken area allegedly departed northward via Metzlingen. Only a rear unit of about 200 men was observed in Millersleben on 22 October.

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A convoy which passed through Wolmirstedt and proceeded north-eastward at 4 p.m. on 22 October consisted of 30 to 35 trucks with 600 to 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 3 field kitchens, 2 ambulances, 3 heavy mortars and 3 x 76.2-mm field guns.

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4. On 22 October, eight artillery batteries returned to the northern section of the Delius Kaserne on Medlitzerstrasse, Potsdam (N 53/Z 63), from the Altengrabow artillery range.

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5. On 22 October, units [redacted] and an unidentified unit [redacted] which had returned to the

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Bernau (N 53/Z 96) post from the summer camp turned in laundry. (6)

6. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 24 October, an artillery unit with 18 x 85-mm AT guns was entrained at the Gross Behnitz (N 53/Z 35) railroad station. The guns had a recoil brake and a recoil mechanism mounted behind a curved protective shield.

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7. On 23 October, 20 T-34 tanks, including tanks [redacted] were detrained at the Oranienburg railroad station and moved to the former concentration camp [redacted] At 9 a.m. on 25 October, a train of eight boxcars carrying soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and field equipment, and about 40 flatcars carrying 1 field kitchen, 12 artillery pieces of about 75-mm and about 40 trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] pulled into the Oranienburg railroad station from the direction of Kremmen.

8. A train without engine, which was side-tracked at the Oranienburg railroad station on 25 October, consisted of 10 boxcars equipped with stoves and an undetermined number of flatcars. The boxcars were occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The flatcars carried 45 to 50 motor vehicles [redacted] including some marked with yellow artillery insignia and, 3 or 4 flatcars with a total of about 50 mortars of 120-mm or 160-mm. (9)

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Comments.

- (1) A directive of 1950 by the SCC decreed that all highway bridges be reinforced up to 60-ton load capacity for all heavy track-laying vehicles. Colonel Barabash (fnu) was identified as the commanding officer of an artillery regiment in Schwerin in October 1949. He may be the Colonel Barabash (fnu) assigned to the unit in Perleberg. The tank unit mentioned in the present report can only be the tank battalion of the 58th Mecz Regt of the 13th Mecz Div, but it is doubtful that it is commanded by this colonel, who is known since 1949. The tank unit with

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[REDACTED] which is reported for the first time, may have been newly stationed in Perleberg, possibly after a small-scale regrouping of units following the summer training period. Lieutenant Colonels Pivovarov (fnu) and Pichonkin (fnu) are known to be commanding officers of units in Perleberg.

- (2) Tanks of the 12th Gds Tank Div, which were engaged in a firing practice near the post.
- (3) A column of mixed weapons, including infantry, of the 207th Itz Rifle Div.
- (4) The arrival of an artillery unit in Tangermuende, the heavy northeastward movements of troops at Letzling Heath between 19 and 22 October and the departure of troops, probably of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, from the barracks installations in Hillersleben may have been connected with the large-scale field exercises which,

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[REDACTED] were to be held in the area southwest of Stendal after 17 October. [REDACTED]. The column observed at 4 p.m. on 22 October 1951 probably consisted of components of the 7th Gds Tank Div. Vehicles observed in the Letzling Heath training area were of the 6th and 7th Gds Tank Divs; 6th, 7th and 19th Gds Mecz Divs; 13th Mecz Div; 207th Itz Rifle Div; 6th Arty Div and of the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army.

- (5) Components of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig of the unidentified artillery division in Potsdam. [REDACTED] reported to [REDACTED] components of this division returned at that time. [REDACTED] 25X1X 25X1A

- (6) [REDACTED] confirms the 35th Gds Mecz Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in Bernau until 22 October 1951. It therefore appears that components of this division, which were at the Templin troop training grounds throughout the summer, were back at their Bernau post by 22 October 1951.

- (7) An artillery component of the 25th Tank Div. The guns may have been of the latest 85-mm AT gun model which resembles the model 1944 100-mm AT gun. [REDACTED] major units, including some with vehicles of the 25th Tank Div, moving at Kyritz toward Musterhausen on 19 and 20 October 1951. [REDACTED] 25X1X 25X1A

- [REDACTED] reported major tank exercises near Barnewitz, about 25 km southeast of Rathenow, on and after 20 October 1951, it is possible that the troop movements without tanks seen at Kyritz may have been connected with the exercises at Barnewitz, particularly because Gross Behnitz is located only about 8 km northeast of Barnewitz. [REDACTED] 25X1A

- 25X1C (8) [REDACTED] the tank unit is believed to be a component of the 25th Tank Div.

- (9) It is not possible to identify the units on the two trains which were either loaded or unloaded at Oranienburg or passed through Oranienburg respectively. [REDACTED] observed are reported for the first time and have not appeared in the Soviet Zone of Germany to date.

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